

**Media Contact:**

Mark Wigfield, (202) 418-0253

mark.wigfield@fcc.gov

**For Immediate Release****FCC AUTHORIZES NEARLY \$26.4 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR  
RURAL BROADBAND IN ILLINOIS*****Fifth Round of Funding from Connect America Fund Auction Starts This Month to  
Expand Broadband in Illinois***

WASHINGTON, September 12, 2019—The Federal Communications Commission today authorized nearly \$26.4 million in funding over the next decade to expand broadband to more than 6,700 unserved homes and businesses in rural Illinois, part of the fifth wave of support from last year's successful Connect America Fund Phase II auction. The providers will begin receiving funding later this month.

Nationwide, the FCC authorized over \$112.2 million in funding over the next decade to expand broadband to 48,000 unserved rural homes and businesses in nine states in today's wave of funding.

"From Effingham to Dekalb, this round of funding from the FCC is helping bring broadband to rural Illinois," said FCC Chairman Ajit Pai. "It's critical that rural communities in Illinois have the same access to digital opportunity that urban areas do. I'm pleased that today's funding will support broadband to over 6,700 unserved rural homes and businesses in the state."

Statewide in Illinois, the FCC has authorized a total of \$64.3 million to date to expand broadband to 22,793 rural homes and businesses. Below is a list of counties where providers will be receiving support in today's funding wave, along with the number of homes and businesses served (locations), the amount of support over 10 years, and the minimum download/upload speeds to be provided:

County	Company	Minimum Speed	Support/10 Years	Locations
Champaign	W.A.T.C.H. TV	100/20 Mbps	\$604,322	89
Champaign	W.A.T.C.H. TV	25/3 Mbps	\$12,193	22
Coles	W.A.T.C.H. TV	100/20 Mbps	\$613,053	70
Coles	W.A.T.C.H. TV	25/3 Mbps	\$68,188	22

De Witt	W.A.T.C.H. TV	100/20 Mbps	\$2,920,953	630
DeKalb	W.A.T.C.H. TV	25/3 Mbps	\$4,484,023	2,124
Douglas	W.A.T.C.H. TV	100/20 Mbps	\$3,336,864	468
Edgar	W.A.T.C.H. TV	100/20 Mbps	\$3,110,894	362
Effingham	Illinois Fiber Connect	Gigabit	\$310,031	98
Ford	W.A.T.C.H. TV	100/20 Mbps	\$2,013,109	466
Iroquois	W.A.T.C.H. TV	100/20 Mbps	\$2,998,942	457
Livingston	W.A.T.C.H. TV	25/3 Mbps	\$5,932	60
Logan	W.A.T.C.H. TV	100/20 Mbps	\$1,016,825	389
Macon	ShawneeLEC	100/20 Mbps	\$198,102	57
Macon	W.A.T.C.H. TV	25/3 Mbps	\$812	1
McLean	W.A.T.C.H. TV	100/20 Mbps	\$5,348	2
Moultrie	ShawneeLEC	100/20 Mbps	\$1,081,407	436
Moultrie	ShawneeLEC	Gigabit	\$386,119	67
Piatt	ShawneeLEC	100/20 Mbps	\$5,434	1
Piatt	ShawneeLEC	Gigabit	\$43,645	6
Piatt	W.A.T.C.H. TV	25/3 Mbps	\$5,249	6
Sangamon	W.A.T.C.H. TV	25/3 Mbps	\$5,811	8
Shelby	W.A.T.C.H. TV	25/3 Mbps	\$797,467	420
Tazewell	W.A.T.C.H. TV	25/3 Mbps	\$5,002	9
Vermilion	W.A.T.C.H. TV	100/20 Mbps	\$2,342,086	429
Vermilion	W.A.T.C.H. TV	25/3 Mbps	\$19,075	7
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$26,390,884</b>	<b>6,706</b>

Providers must build out to 40% of the assigned homes and businesses in the areas won in a state within three years. Buildout must increase by 20% in each subsequent year, until complete buildout is reached at the end of the sixth year.

The Connect America Fund Phase II auction last year allocated \$1.488 billion nationwide in support to expand broadband to more than 700,000 unserved rural homes and small businesses over the next 10 years. It is part of a broader effort by the FCC to close the digital divide in rural America. On August 1, the FCC proposed taking its biggest single step to date toward closing the rural digital divide by establishing the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, which would direct up to \$20.4 billion to expand broadband in unserved rural areas.

More information on the auction is available at <https://www.fcc.gov/auction/903>. A map of winning bids is available at <https://www.fcc.gov/reports-research/maps/caf2-auction903-results/>.

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**Media Relations: (202) 418-0500 / ASL: (844) 432-2275 / TTY: (888) 835-5322 / Twitter: @FCC / [www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov)**

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